

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

Superintending School Committee

OF THE

TOWN OF BRISTOL.

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH 1, 1870.

CONCORD:

PRINTED BY MCFARLAND & JENKS.

1870.



REPORT OF THE SELECTMEN.

The selectmen credit the town for the year ending March 1, 1870, as follows :

By list of taxes assessed April 1, 1869,	\$11,302.56	
Savings bank tax,	93.64	
Railroad,	536.20	
Literary fund,	58.60	
Use of town hall,	23.00	
Rent of Armory Hall,	50.00	
Received of T. Tilton, Surveyor,	16.00	
" C. Cass, "	16.00	
" County,	133.86	
" James Brown,	12.76	
By Money hired,	5,385.70	
In Treasury,	1,488.62	
Received of collector, 1868,	611.93	
" 1867,	80.08	
" Milo Fellows, liquor agent,	94.92	
		\$19,903.87

Disbursements of the Selectmen.

Paid State tax,	\$1830.00	
County tax,	873.76	
		\$2,703.76
Paid for support of poor :		
Nat Page's child,	\$15.00	
William Flanders,	40.00	
William Sanborn,	96.14	
Mary Swett,	161.20	
Clarissa Brown,	104.00	
Clark Fuller,	67.45	
Transient,	28.00	
I. S. Chase, for services,	54.40	
H. B. Fowler "	1.25	
		\$567.44

School Money.

District No. 1,	\$26.25	
2,	950.96	
3,	42.52	
4,	42.00	
5,	29.28	
6,	66.08	
8,	50.00	
9,	53.35	
M. J. Peters' tax,	5.00	
		\$1,265.44

School House Money.

District No. 2,	\$1,000.00	
3,	20.00	
		\$1,020.00

Abatement of Taxes.

Levi Bartlett heirs over taxed,	\$39.94	
F. C. Wells, "	8.07	
I. C. Tilton, "	1.38	
C. L. Clay, "	4.82	
C. H. Day, "	1.05	
T. R. Emmons, "	1.12	
J. Roby, 1868,	4.22	
Isaac Watts,	4.22	
N. B. Braley, *	4.04	
Almon Bailey, *	4.04	
A. M. Draper, *	4.04	
Jacob Dow,	4.04	
Geo. W. Hodgdon,	4.04	
A. L. Hall, *	16.14	
Charles Laundry,	4.04	
Jacob Lygo,	4.04	
Hugh McDaniel,	4.04	
Frank Sawyer, *	4.04	
J. R. S. Sleeper, *	4.04	
J. H. Bean, *	3.61	
M. S. Peters, dog tax,	1.00	
J. W. Tuttle,	4.04	
P. Martin, 1867,	2.87	
I. Watts, "	5.87	
G. S. Mills, "	7.53	
Discount on tax, "	10.90	
		\$157.13

* * Those with star, taxed out of town.

Town Officers' Bills.

D. S. Mason, Selectman,	\$128.00
J. F. Cass, "	110.25
C. H. Mudgett, "	110.00
J. P. Taylor, town clerk,	25.00
J. M. Bishop, Treasurer,	75.00
S. Ketchum, S. S. Committee,	59.00
Seth Cass, Collector, 1869,	100.00
" " 1868,	25.00

 \$632.25
Highways and Bridges.

Geo. Sumner,	\$6.00
S. K. Worthen,	47.11
Otis Sanborn,	5.32
Charles A. Gale,	8.57
J. F. French,	54.73
Stephen Nelson,	26.02
Wm. Rankins,	16.62
J. M. Sleeper,	8.22
Dana Woodman,	6.54
Geo. M. Wooster,	80.30
M. S. Peters,	3.79
J. M. R. Emmons,	9.52
Geo. M. Wooster,	57.75
C. W. Batchelder,	91.80
P. C. Bean,	17.60
Fred Kidder,	3.50
H. D. Cheney,	4.50
J. M. Sleeper,	6.82
Geo. M. Wooster,	35.00
Gilman Sanborn,	4.55
Scott Fellows,	10.00
Noah Horn,	8.00
J. L. Cheney,	13.43
Oren Nelson,	6.00
A. H. George,	7.53
Blake Fowler,	24.23
T. R. Emmons,	1.00
Jacob Cass,	3.00
Hiram Heath,	5.67
F. H. Bartlett,	1.00
H. S. Beckford,	7.00
D. Smith,	2.50

C. Taylor & Son,	.90	
Blake & Haynes,	5.34	
Albert Blake,	86.40	
Edgerly & Hammond,	5.20	
T. H. Daniels, shingling bridge,	38.50	
Expense on Smith's bridge,	2,075.71	
Robert Mason,	16.50	
W. Sleeper,	6.82	
C. H. Mudgett,	10.75	
Sanborn & Forrest,	5.13	
Jacob Cass,	.50	
M. S. Peters,	11.78	
P. C. Bean,	36.04	
D. S. Mason,	5.75	
		\$2,888.94

Miscellaneous Expenses.

I. B. Gordon, printing reports,	\$38.50	
E. C. Crafts,	6.50	
C. Taylor & Son,	13.32	
C. Taylor, shingles,	21.00	
G. M. Cavis,	4.50	
Town Library,	100.00	
S. S. Sanborn, land damage,	80.00	
Calvin Cass,	16.25	
A. C. Jewett, land damage,	5.00	
Clark Merrill,	2.00	
C. Taylor & Son, for glass,	1.24	
Sarah Jaqueth, damage,	15.00	
L. Locke, water-trough,	3.00	
L. W. Fling's bill,	67.50	
S. K. Mason, "	45.50	
" insuring town house,	10.00	
J. M. R. Emmons, damage on sleigh,	9.00	
Ministerial Fund,	6.00	
Stationery,	23.90	
A. W. Bingham, lamps and oil,	7.15	
M. H. Crosby, for wood,	3.75	
Paid for liquor,	543.35	
J. F. Cass, team and expenses,	37.25	
C. H. Mudgett, use of team and expenses to Concord, &c.,	28.50	
J. M. Bishop, recording births,	2.50	
		\$1,090.75

Railroad Bills.

O. K. Bucklin,	\$20.00	
G. T. Crawford,	358.09	
O. F. Fowler,	72.45	
L. W. Fling,	82.80	
A. & S. A. Fowler,	40.00	
		\$573.34

Paid Notes of the Town.

S. E. Heath (J. M. R. Emmons, guardian),	\$40.32	
Peter Whittemore,	283.70	
Harriet Whittemore,	15.00	
Calvin Swett,	240.00	
Hannah Woolson,	6.00	
M. H. Page,	106.75	
F. W. Robinson,	662.00	
Dorcas W. Heath,	50.00	
H. M. Emmons,	245.40	
Alonzo Cheney,	50.00	
A. Curtice,	157.55	
C. R. Courier,	61.10	
C. S. Brown,	694.50	
Levi Carter,	36.00	
S. S. Southard,	1,131.58	
B. L. Wells,	305.38	
E. Atwood,	81.48	
Stephen Nelson,	54.29	
S. H. Cross,	100.00	
Nancy Fisk,	106.92	
James Brown,	164.84	
D. M. Chase,	174.88	
B. F. Perkins,	126.25	
C. N. Merrill,	238.20	
Betsy Ladd,	251.60	
A. W. Bingham,	120.13	
D. M. Chase,	101.15	
Warren Brown,	604.42	
		\$6,209.44
Paid outstanding orders,	\$56.18	
		\$56.18
Money in hands of Collector,	\$2,995.32	
“ “ Treasurer,	65.65	
		\$3,060.97

Recapitulation.

Paid out :		
State and County tax,	\$2,703.76	
Support of poor,	567.44	
School money,	1,265.44	
School house money,	1,020.00	
Abatement of taxes,	157.13	
Town officers,	632.25	
Highways and Bridges,	2,888.94	
Miscellaneous,	1,090.71	
Railroad,	573.34	
Paid notes,	6,209.44	
Paid outstanding orders,	56.18	
In hands of collector,	2,995.32	
" " Treasurer,	65.65	
Amount ordered out and on hand,		\$20,225.60
Amount received,	\$19,903.87	
Unpaid orders,	321.73	
		\$20,225.60

Debts of the Town, March 1, 1870.

Stephen Nelson,	\$181.88
S. A. Fowler,	130.28
S. E. Heath (J. M. R. Emmons, guardian),	\$458.75
W. T. Mussey,	129.90
Mary Mudgett,	127.40
Sarah Cheney,	76.42
Wm. Mudgett,	171.96
Hannah Tibbets,	764.23
Fred Kidder,	127.29
L. B. Whittemore,	152.67
Fred Bartlett,	236.93
Miss Crawford,	773.14
J. T. Whittemore,	87.88
H. B. Fowler,	273.86
Aaron Sleeper,	1,519.25
Calvin Cass,	308.01
Harriet Whittemore,	127.40
Calvin Swett,	202.38
H. M. Emmons,	1,275.42
Samuel Smith,	68.33

H. A. Fellows,	142.43
John Brock,	61.68
B. F. Shaw,	614.39
Hannah Woolson,	103.35
J. W. Curtice,	244.92
Dorcas W. Heath,	482.13
H. E. Wittemore,	692.71
Aaron Kidder,	1,463.56
R. F. Eastman,	1,463.56
J. F. Eastman,	1,220.45
Dorcas W. Heath,	473.60
E. Kendall,	184.03
J. W. Curtice,	239.14
S. E. Heath (J. M. R. Emmons, guardian),	309.13
C. W. Colby,	594.38
Amos Brown,	948.50
Alonzo Cheney,	309.94
W. J. Mussey,	71.07
Dorcas W. Heath,	147.77
Nancy Laney,	189.50
Alonzo Cheney,	825.98
R. W. Haley,	1,291.12
W. A. Berry,	294.15
W. J. Mussey,	46.74
C. R. Courier,	1,040.48
Mary Mudgett,	410.92
Levi Carter,	202.40
Clark Merrill,	142.72
W. A. Berry,	113.89
A. Curtice,	170.09
Willard Heath,	679.02
Levi Carter,	402.00
A. Curtice,	113.03
Betsey Ordway,	234.82
Stephen N. Heath,	223.97
B. B. Southmayd,	660.92
Samuel Smith,	54.81
Stephen Nelson,	53.90
Lovilla C. Brown,	109.20
Rosann Chase,	54.28
J. M. R. Emmons,	108.35
Lovilla C. Brown,	129.77
S. H. Cross,	620.13
Abby P. Worthing,	69.87
H. E. Day,	214.16

A. Curtice,	53.49	
Henry Griffith,	107.15	
David Haynes,	216.23	
James H. Brown,	159.72	
Clark Merrill,	56.22	
David Mason,	3,774.87	
S. M. Currier,	1,818.70	
S. M. Currier,	778.07	
Charlotte Hibbard,	949.59	
Ellen Griffith,	105.56	
Samuel Smith,	82.29	
Woodbury Sleeper,	105.15	
Daniel Kelley,	105.20	
Rose E. Chase,	52.55	
David Mason,	57.20	
J. S. Kelley,	337.35	
S. C. Bean,	155.40	
Mary Chadwick,	92.70	
J. A. Patten,	383.25	
J. A. Cross,	76.65	
L. F. Dearbon,	102.00	
Stephen Brock,	102.00	
D. S. Mason,	459.00	
Milo Fellows,	204.95	
G. F. L. Chase,	117.12	
D. M. Chase,	137.56	
J. A. Cross,	101.50	
W. H. Danforth,	203.00	
Franklin Fogg,	404.93	
Seth Glover,	506.00	
Peter Whittemore,	286.11	
E. S. Smith,	50.20	
J. F. Brock,	53.13	
John Brock,	200.50	
Clarence Horn,	50.00	
	\$37,840.75	
Outstanding orders,	321.73	
		\$38,162.48
Due the town:		
From United States,	\$1,766.00	
State aid,	275.33	
Collector, 1868,	128.73	
“ 1869,	2,995.32	
Treasurer,	65.65	

Cash in Town Agent's hand,	18.78	
Amount in liquor "	469.43	
D. L. & C. M. Bennet's note,	31.80	
		\$5,751.04

Actual debt March 1, 1870,	\$32,411.44
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D. S. MASON,	} <i>Selectmen</i>	
JOHN F. CASS,		<i>of</i>
C. H. MUDGETT,		<i>Bristol.</i>

Bristol, March 1, 1870.



REPORT
OF
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
OF
TOWN OF BRISTOL,
FOR THE
YEAR ENDING IN MARCH, 1870.

To DANIEL S. MASON, JOHN F. CASS *and* CALVIN H. MUDGETT,
Esquires, Selectmen of Bristol:

The Committee appointed by you to superintend the Public Schools in the Town of Bristol, for the school year ending in March, 1870, desires to make the following Report :

Upon assuming the duties of Superintendent, I made diligent inquiry into the kinds of text-books used in all the public schools in town, other than the graded school, to ascertain if any degree of uniformity existed. As a result, I found that there was an almost entire uniformity in geographies, Cornell's series being generally in use ; and that the use of the Weld-Quackenbos Grammar was also very general. But I found that in reading-books and arithmetics a great diversity existed. The Progressive Readers, most largely in use, were mostly old and worn to rags. Beside these I found in use Sargent's, Hillard's, Mandeville's, Town's old series, and the National Readers. Of arithmetics I found in use Robinson's whole series, Greenleaf's whole series, Walton's whole series, and also Colburn's, Emerson's, Holbrook's, Eaton's and Adams'.

It therefore seemed essential to procure as large a uniformity as practicable in readers and arithmetics. For this purpose I examined a number of kinds, and finally adopted, for all the schools except the graded school, Willson's Series of Readers and Spellers—excepting the “Intermediate” volumes;—and French's First Lessons, Elementary, and Common School Arithmetics. I decided upon Willson's Readers, for the reason that they are compiled on the entirely new plan of imparting useful knowledge concerning history, and concerning all the popular departments of science, at the same time they are teaching the art of reading. French's arithmetics are clear and concise in their definitions, natural in their demonstrations, sensible in their arrangement, and adapted to the object method of instruction, which is now superseding all others.

These works I proceeded to introduce into the schools before named, they being furnished to me at half price, and by me furnished to the scholars at the same. A reasonable compensation was allowed by the publishers for the old books taken in exchange, and I was instructed by them to give books outright, at their expense, to the children of poor parents who were unable to buy, which I have in some cases done. I have not compelled any to exchange, but nearly every scholar has done so willingly. Those scholars who had nearly completed the Practical, Common School, or Higher Arithmetics, I advised to keep the books they had, and most of them did so. The use therefore of Willson's readers and French's arithmetics has been made very nearly uniform, except in the Heath District, where the scholars read in history, and were well advanced in arithmetic, and in the Blackstone District, where there has been no school. The uniform verbal testimony of those teachers who have used these books, leads me to hope the selection has not been injudicious.

There was also a great lack of uniformity in copy-books. Potter & Hammond's, Payson, Dunton & Scribner's, the Spencerian, and those with no copies, were all in use. I have changed them all out, and made the use of Harper's

writing and drawing-books uniform in all the schools in town.

In District No. 1, the school commenced on the 26th of April and closed on the 18th of June. It was taught by SARAH L. PLUMMER, who had taught the same school before. The whole number of scholars was 9, and the average 6. Of these about one half resided in Hill. I was not present at the close of the term, but visited the school three times, and found it always quiet, orderly and diligent. The fact that there were no cases of tardiness, punishment, or dismissal, is much to the credit of both teacher and pupils, and also the parents of the pupils. Geo. M. Wooster, Prudential Committee.

In District No. 3, the first term commenced on the 3d of May, and closed on the 2d of July. Taught by MARTHA S. NELSON. Whole number of pupils, 13; average attendance, 9. I visited this school three times during the term, and was gratified at the interest manifested by both teacher and scholars. There was marked progress in the branches taught. This was Miss Nelson's first school and she succeeded beyond my expectation.

The second term was taught by EMMA M. FLANDERS, commencing on the 23d of August, and closing on the 5th of November. Miss Flanders is an accomplished scholar, and a prompt and efficient teacher, and the school appeared finely at the close. Having two terms so near together was of marked advantage to the district. The scholars were able to go right on with their studies without a laborious review. The scholarship of this school ranks highest but one of any of the schools in town, not graded. Whole attendance, 13; average, 11. Solon Dolloff, Prudential Committee.

The term in District No. 4 commenced on the 22d of Nov. 1869, and closed on the 22d of January, 1870, taught by MARCUS L. EMMONS. This district has the best school-house in town, except that in the village. It is neat, well furnished in modern style, beautifully located, and is a credit to the district. It is a pity they have not more than 8 scholars to

teach in it. The school commanded the warmest admiration of the Committee. The progress made was more than could have been expected in so short a term. The harmonious coöperation of parents, pupils and teacher was plainly apparent. As a teacher, Mr. Emmons is thorough, earnest and quiet. The scholarship ranks higher than in any of the other common schools in town. Samuel W. Heath, Prudential Committee.

The school in District No. 5 was taught by KATE L. ROBIE, commencing on the 30th of August, and closing on the 14th of November. There were four scholars, the oldest being but nine years old. I was not able to be present at the close of the term, but have heard much satisfaction expressed by those who had an opportunity to know. Miss Robie had had experience in a primary school, and was interested for her scholars. John Robie, Prudential Committee.

The first term in District No. 6 commenced on the 10th of May, and closed on the 3d of July, taught by CLARA M. DAMON, who ranks among our most successful teachers. Whole attendance, 15; average attendance, 13. The term was profitable, and the school apparently harmonious. There are some excellent scholars in this school.

The second term was taught by MARTHA EMMONS. Owing to disaffection in the district, only five scholars availed themselves of its advantages. I visited the school twice, and found that those who did attend made considerable advancement. It was a short but profitable term—to the five scholars.

The third term was taught by CLARA M. DAMON, commencing on the 18th of October, and closing on the 27th of November. Whole attendance, 21; average, 17. On account of local disturbances, before referred to, certain scholars evidently intended to break up the school. They succeeded in destroying its usefulness. Certain boys, big enough to be men, but having few brains and no shame, perpetually annoyed and insulted the teacher. They should have been expelled, and would have been, had the Superintendent been notified. No teacher can give attention to the instruction of a school, who

has to be constantly on the alert to govern it. Miss Damon did what she could for the school, and bore without complaint what ought to have been punished with severity. There is no more certain sign of cowardice in overgrown boys than to abuse a female teacher. B. F. Sanborn was Prudential Committee.

District No. 7, called the Blackstone District, had no school this year.

The term in District No. 8 commenced on the 6th of September, and continued to November 3d, taught by ANNIE W. GEORGE. Whole number in attendance, 20; average attendance, 17. I visited the school four times, and found it orderly and obedient. Good progress was made in the various branches pursued, particularly in reading and arithmetic. Some of the finest readers in town are in this school. The teacher did what she could for the school, and the scholars what they could for themselves; and such a school will always be a good school. M. S. Cheney was Prudential Committee.

District No. 9 had a private school, in the early autumn, of four weeks, kept by DORCAS CALLEY, which served as a profitable introduction to the public term which commenced on the 8th of November, 1869, and closed on the 8th of January, 1870, taught by MARTHA S. NELSON. This school was found so badly classified, on my first visit, as to present the anomaly of forty-nine classes in a school of 22 scholars.

By casting out some classes, uniting others, and by inducing uniformity in books of the same grade, the matter was partially remedied. But the number was still too large, after as great a reduction had been effected as could be without arbitrary severity. Added to this disadvantage, the teacher had to contend with a spirit of insubordination on the part of certain large boys in the school. Finally, on complaint of the teacher and Prudential Committee, after an examination of the case, being persuaded that the offences against the teacher were aggravating and without apparent excuse, the Superintendent removed three scholars from the school. Great credit is due to those who endeavored to maintain the good order of

the school. At the close I was surprised that the school had done so well, instead of being disappointed that it had done no better. Nicholas T. Chase was Prudential Committee.

THE GRADED SCHOOL IN DISTRICT NO. 2.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The spring term, commencing in May, was kept by SARAH L. DAY, who had been teacher of this department since its commencement in October, 1867. The largest number in attendance was 61. Miss Day conducted the school with her usual success; and although regretting it, yet none could blame her for resigning this for a more eligible situation. Miss Day had admirable tact in managing the little folks, and her scholars loved her. She was succeeded by KATIE F. GEORGE, who kept the fall and winter terms, commencing Aug. 31, and ending Dec. 31. Under her tuition the school made good progress and did much credit to both teacher and pupils at the closing examination; at which time all in the first class were advanced to the intermediate department. Miss George at once secured the affection of her pupils, and the best of feeling prevailed in the school.

THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

was in a somewhat disorganized condition, owing to rapid shifting of teachers, when, at the commencement of the spring term, it was placed under the instruction of Miss JULIETTE PLUMMER. But Miss Plummer, in her quiet and positive way, soon reduced things to order, and continued in charge of it till transferred to the Grammar School. She was sometimes severe in her discipline, but not more so than, in the opinion of the Superintendent, the good of the school demanded. She was earnest and faithful in her manner, and systematic in her methods of instruction, and the beneficial results were manifest.

The term commencing on the 4th of October was taught by ANNIE M. KNOX. The whole attendance during the term was 38, and the average 25. One great evil which Miss Knox had to contend with, and which every former teacher of this school has had to contend with, was absence of scholars. Parents do

not realize it, and pupils do not realize it, but teachers do, that the best school in the world will do that scholar little good who is absent two or three days, or half days, in a week. Miss Knox was persistent in her efforts, and her classes passed a critical examination in arithmetic and geography with much credit. The average of reading was so low, at the commencement of the term, that the Superintendent put a prize into the school to induce effort. It was awarded, by judgment of Lewis W. Fling, Esq., to Laura Clement, as being, all things considered, the best reader in the school; but all made commendable progress. Term continued till Dec. 31. At the examination ten were advanced to the next higher school.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Was opened on the 3d of May, and continued in session until the 25th of June, under the instruction of MARY F. ALTON. The whole number in attendance was 57; average 48. Miss Alton was ardent and industrious in her efforts to benefit the school; but a spirit of insubordination on the part of some, and of indifference in others, together with the crowded state of the school, greatly subtracted from the profit obtained. Miss Alton's exactions were not always judicious, but the refusal of scholars, and of parents to allow their children, to comply with them, was far less judicious.

The fall term commenced under the instruction of Miss JULIETTE PLUMMER. Certain scholars who could not be promoted were, nevertheless, transferred to the High School. Order was established, and every thing promised a successful term, when Miss Plummer resigned, and ANNETTE R. HUNTOON was engaged to finish the term. Miss Huntoon is a teacher of long and successful experience and the school was profitably advanced under her instruction. The school was very deficient in arithmetic. Miss Huntoon was directed to remedy this defect if possible, and succeeded in presenting for examination the best class in arithmetic the Grammar School has yet produced. The arithmetic heretofore in use in this school being found too difficult, I introduced French's Elementary for those commencing to use the slate, and have adopted it for the Grammar School. I also adopted and introduced Anderson's Gram-

mar School History of the United States. The whole attendance was 54: average 48. Miss Huntoon's term commenced on the 21st of November 1869, and closed on the 31st of January, 1870.

THE HIGH SCHOOL

Opened on the 23d of May, ELLEN H. FISHER, Principal. Her long acquaintance with the school, her consequent understanding of the temper and ability of each scholar, her remarkable administrative talent as a teacher, and the previous conformity of the school to her methods, all conspired to make it difficult to fill her place, when, at the commencement of the fall term, she resigned to accept a situation "out west."

Miss E. E. MESERVEY succeeded her, but was compelled, by failing health, to resign, after a few weeks, and Mr. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN was engaged to complete the term. Mr. McClellan is an accomplished scholar and veteran teacher; and the school, not yet closed, shows the result of his diligence and skill. This school ought to have a competent male teacher for principal, and it is the opinion of the Superintendent, who is better acquainted with the wants of the school, from observation, than any one else can be, that its highest usefulness can be secured in no other way. Either the standard of scholarship must be let down, or a skillful and highly educated teacher must be employed. I have adopted and introduced into this school, Quackenbos' Rhetoric, Anthon's Cicero, Crosby's Greek Grammar and Lessons, and, for this and the Grammar School, Shaw's Writing and Composition Speller. Miss Fisher kept the school 10 weeks, Miss Meservey 9 weeks, and the remainder (probably 6 or 7 weeks) will be completed by Mr. McClellan.

In superintending the twelve schools of Bristol the present year, I have made sixty-six visits in all; traveled two hundred and seventy-nine miles with horse and carriage or by the cars, have introduced upward of 300 new school-books; and have made it my endeavor to sustain order, support the teachers, pacify discontent, encourage merit, and advance the interest of the pupils as much as practicable in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

SILAS KETCHUM, *Superintendent.*

2^d Edition.

2000 copies printed by order of
Harpur & Brothers.

REPORT

V. J.

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

IN THE TOWN OF BRISTOL, N. H.

For the Year 1869-70.

My first care, when appointed by you to superintend the public schools, was to ascertain what was their condition; what wants, if any, were to be supplied, what errors, if any, to be corrected, and what had been the methods of the several schools heretofore pursued. I found that the introduction of new books into the graded schools, together with the usual immigration of families from other towns, whose children had brought in their books with them, had produced a great diversity in books of the same kind and grade.

This was particularly true of arithmetics and reading-books. Of the former I found in use all of Greenleaf's, all of Robinson's, all of Walton's, together with Eaton's, Quackenbos', Colburn's, Holbrook's, Emerson's and Adams'. To secure a uniformity in arithmetics was greatly to be desired. There were strong local reasons for making Walton's Series, which was adopted for the graded school in 1867, uniform throughout the town. But the two years' use of these books in the graded school had not tended to confirm the confidence of committee, teachers or pupils, in their adaptation to the wants of our schools. Then again, knowing that the works were then undergoing a complete revision, it seemed that the introduction of new editions would increase the confusion.

I therefore sought for a suitable book elsewhere. The Greenleaf's and Robinson's had been used till they were worn to rags, and it seemed to me that with the former, the schools of New-Hampshire had been tortured long enough.

After examining several kinds, I decided upon French's Common School, Elementary and First lessons.

1st. Because they were skillfully adapted to the object-method of teaching; a method now superseding all others.

2d. Because they seemed clear in their definitions, inductive in their method, logical in their arrangement and easy of comprehension.

3d. Because the books were well manufactured, and sold at reasonable prices.

Of reading-books, I found in use all of Towne's Progressive, all of Sargent's, all of Hillard's, some of Towne's old series, of Mandeville's, and the National. Those in use were mostly worn out, except a few new Hillard's and the National. All the teachers who had taught in our district schools were in favor of having a new reading-book.

I therefore decided upon Willson's series of readers. Those we had before used, most of them excellent selections, were all substantially alike. Whatever differences were apparent, were not in the plan, but in the selections made. Willson's readers are on an entirely new plan, namely, that the only accompaniment to the art of reading is, not acquaintance with a few pieces, long popular, and familiar to successive generations of pupils, but instruction in facts and principles relating to some of the most useful branches of human knowledge: physiology, botany, natural philosophy, chemistry, geology, ancient and modern history, architecture, and the natural history of beasts, birds, fishes and reptiles; and presenting at the same time such miscellaneous selections as would make the pupil familiar with the style of the best writers in the language.

These books—the arithmetics and readers—I have introduced into all the schools in town, save the graded school, the books in which have not yet been in use three years, and District No. 7, which has had no school. The verbal testimony of those teachers who have used them, and also of the pupils, confirms me in the belief that the selection was judicious.

I may perhaps be allowed to say that, following the example

of Bristol, many of the towns around Bristol have adopted these books.

Of the geographies in use Cornell's was found to be almost the only one; and the use of Quackenbos' grammars was nearly uniform.

I have also changed out Potter & Hammond's, and the Spencian Writing Books, and no other writing book is now used in town but Harper's Writing and Drawing Books.

In District No. 1 the school commenced on the 26th of April and closed on the 18th of June. It was taught by SARAH L. PLUMMER, who had taught the same school before. The whole number of scholars was 9, and the average 6. Of these about one half resided in Hill. I was not present at the close of the term, but visited the school three times, and found it always quiet, orderly and diligent. The fact that there were no cases of tardiness, punishment, or dismissal, is much to the credit of both teacher and pupils, and also the parents of the pupils. Geo. M. Wooster, Prudential Committee.

In District No. 3 the first term commenced on the 3d of May, and closed on the 2d of July. Taught by MARTHA S. NELSON. Whole number of pupils, 13; average attendance, 9. I visited this school three times during the term, and was gratified at the interest manifested by both teacher and scholars. There was marked progress in the branches taught. This was Miss Nelson's first school, and she succeeded beyond my expectation.

The second term was taught by EMMA M. FLANDERS, commencing on the 23d of August, and closing on the 5th of November. Miss Flanders is an accomplished scholar, and a prompt and efficient teacher, and the school appeared finely at the close. Having two terms so near together was of marked advantage to the district. The scholars were able to go right on with their studies without a laborious review. The scholarship of this school ranks highest but one of any of the schools in town, not graded. Whole attendance, 13; average, 11. Solon Dolloff, Prudential Committee.

The term in District No. 4 commenced on the 22d of Nov.

1869, and closed on the 22d of January, 1870, taught by MARCUS L. EMMONS. This district has the best school-house in town, except that in the village. It is neat, well furnished in modern style, beautifully located, and is a credit to the district. It is a pity they have not more than 8 scholars to teach in it. The school commanded the warmest admiration of the Committee. The progress made was more than could have been expected in so short a term. The harmonious coöperation of parents, pupils and teacher, was plainly apparent. As a teacher, Mr. Emmons is thorough, earnest and quiet. The scholarship ranks higher than in any of the other common schools in town. Samuel W. Heath, Prudential Committee.

The school in District No. 5 was taught by KATE L. ROBIE, commencing on the 30th of August, and closing on the 14th of November. There were four scholars, the oldest being but nine years old. I was not able to be present at the close of the term, but have heard much satisfaction expressed by those who had an opportunity to know. Miss Robie had had experience in a primary school, and was interested for her scholars. John Robie, Prudential Committee.

The first term in District No. 6 commenced on the 10th of May, and closed on the 3d of July, taught by CLARA M. DAMON, who ranks among our most successful teachers. Whole attendance, 15; average attendance, 13. The term was profitable, and the school apparently harmonious. There are some excellent scholars in this school.

The second term was taught by MARTHA EMMONS. Owing to disaffection in the district, only five scholars availed themselves of its advantages. I visited the school twice, and found that those who did attend made considerable advancement. It was a short but profitable term—to the five scholars.

The third term was taught by CLARA M. DAMON, commencing on the 18th of October, and closing on the 27th of November. Whole attendance, 21; average, 17. On account of local disturbances, before referred to, certain scholars evidently intended to break up the school. They succeeded in destroying its usefulness. Certain boys, big enough to be men, but having few brains and no shame, perpetually annoyed and

insulted the teacher. They should have been expelled, and would have been, had the Superintendent been notified. No teacher can give attention to the instruction of a school, who has to be constantly on the alert to govern it. Miss Damon did what she could for the school, and bore without complaint what ought to have been punished with severity. There is no more certain sign of cowardice in overgrown boys than to abuse a female teacher. B. F. Sanborn, Prudential Committee.

District No. 7, called the Blackstone District, had no school this year.

The term in District No. 8 commenced on the 6th of September, and continued to November 3d, taught by ANNIE W. GEORGE. Whole number in attendance, 20; average attendance, 17. I visited the school four times, and found it orderly and obedient. Good progress was made in the various branches pursued, particularly in reading and arithmetic. Some of the finest readers in town are in this school. The teacher did what she could for the school, and the scholars what they could for themselves; and such a school will always be a good school. M. S. Cheney was Prudential Committee.

District No. 9 had a private school, in the early autumn, of four weeks, kept by DORCAS CALLEY, which served as a profitable introduction to the public term, which commenced on the 8th of November, 1869, and closed on the 8th of January, 1870, taught by MARTHA S. NELSON. This school was found so badly classified, on my first visit, as to present the anomaly of forty-nine classes in a school of 22 scholars.

By casting out some classes, uniting others, and by inducing uniformity in books of the same grade, the matter was partially remedied. But the number was still too large, after as great a reduction had been effected as could be without arbitrary severity. Added to this disadvantage, the teacher had to contend with a spirit of insubordination on the part of certain large boys in the school. Finally, on complaint of the teacher and Prudential Committee, after an examination of the case, being persuaded that the offenses against the teacher were aggravating and without apparent excuse, the Superintendent removed three scholars from the school. Great credit

is due to those who endeavored to maintain the good order of the school. At the close I was surprised that the school had done so well, instead of being disappointed that it had done no better. Nicholas T. Chase was Prudential Committee.

THE GRADED SCHOOL IN DISTRICT NO. 2.

PRIMARY SCHOOL.

The spring term, commencing in May, was kept by SARAH L. DAY, who had been teacher of this department since its commencement in October, 1867. The largest number in attendance was 61. Miss Day conducted the school with her usual success; and although regretting it, yet none could blame her for resigning this for a more eligible situation. Miss Day had admirable tact in managing the little folks, and her scholars loved her. She was succeeded by KATIE F. GEORGE, who kept the fall and winter terms, commencing Aug. 31, and ending Dec. 31. Under her tuition the school made good progress and did much credit to both teacher and pupils at the closing examination; at which time all in the first class were advanced to the intermediate department. Miss George at once secured the affection of her pupils, and the best of feeling prevailed in the school.

THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

was in a somewhat disorganized condition, owing to rapid shifting of teachers, when, at the commencement of the spring term, it was placed under the instruction of Miss JULIETTE PLUMMER. But Miss Plummer, in her quiet and positive way, soon reduced things to order, and continued in charge of it till transferred to the Grammar School. She was sometimes severe in her discipline, but not more so than, in the opinion of the Superintendent, the good of the school demanded. She was earnest and faithful in her manner, and systematic in her methods of instruction, and the beneficial results were manifest.

The term commencing on the 4th of October was taught by ANNIE M. KNOX. The whole attendance during the term was 38, and the average 25. One great evil which Miss Knox had to contend with, and which every former teacher of this school has had to contend with, was absence of scholars. Parents do

not realize it, and pupils do not realize it, but teachers do, that the best school in the world will do that scholar little good who is absent two or three days, or half days, in a week. Miss Knox was persistent in her efforts, and her classes passed a critical examination in arithmetic and geography with much credit. The average of reading was so low, at the commencement of the term, that the Superintendent put a prize into the school to induce effort. It was awarded, by judgment of Lewis W. Fling, Esq., to Laura Clement, as being, all things considered, the best reader in the school; but all made commendable progress. Term continued till Dec. 31. At the examination ten were advanced to the next higher school.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Was opened on the 3d of May, and continued in session until the 25th of June, under the instruction of MAY F. ALTON. The whole number in attendance was 57; average 48. Miss Alton was ardent and industrious in her efforts to benefit the school; but a spirit of insubordination on the part of some, and of indifference in others, together with the crowded state of the school, greatly subtracted from the profit obtained. Miss Alton's exactions were not always judicious, but the refusal of scholars, and of parents to allow their children to comply with them, was far less judicious.

The fall term commenced under the instruction of Miss JULIETTE PLUMMER. Certain scholars who could not be promoted were, nevertheless, transferred to the High School. Order was established, and every thing promised a successful term, when Miss Plummer resigned, and ANNETTE R. HUNTOON was engaged to finish the term. Miss Huntoon is a teacher of long and successful experience, and the school was profitably advanced under her instruction. The school was very deficient in arithmetic. Miss Huntoon was directed to remedy this defect if possible, and succeeded in presenting for examination the best class in arithmetic the Grammar School has yet produced. The arithmetic heretofore in use in this school being found too difficult, I introduced French's Elementary for those commencing to use the slate, and have adopted it for the Grammar School. I also adopted and introduced Anderson's Gram-

mar School History of the United States. The whole attendance was 54: average 48. Miss Huntoon's term commenced on the 21st of November, 1869, and closed on the 31st of January, 1870.

THE HIGH SCHOOL.

Opened on the 23d of May, ELLEN H. FISHER, Principal. Her long acquaintance with the school, her consequent understanding of the temper and ability of each scholar, her remarkable administrative talent as a teacher, and the previous conformity of the school to her methods, all conspired to make it difficult to fill her place, when, at the commencement of the fall term, she resigned to accept a situation "out west."

MISS E. E. MESERVEY succeeded her, but was compelled, by failing health, to resign, after a few weeks, and MR. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN was engaged to complete the term. Mr. McClellan is an accomplished scholar and veteran teacher, and the school, not yet closed, shows the result of his diligence and skill. This school ought to have a competent male teacher for principal, and it is the opinion of the Superintendent, who is better acquainted with the wants of the school, from observation, than any one else can be, that its highest usefulness can be secured in no other way. Either the standard of scholarship must be let down, or a skillful and highly educated teacher must be employed. I have adopted and introduced into this school, Quackenbos' Rhetoric, Anthon's Cicero, Crosby's Greek Grammar and Lessons, and, for this and the Grammar School, Shaw's Writing and Composition Speller. Miss Fisher kept the school 10 weeks, Miss Meservey 9 weeks, and the remainder (probably 6 or 7 weeks) will be completed by Mr. McClellan.

In superintending the twelve schools of Bristol the present year, I have made sixty-six visits in all; traveled two hundred and seventy-nine miles with horse and carriage or by the cars, have introduced upward of 300 new school-books; and have made it my endeavor to sustain order, support the teachers, pacify discontent, encourage merit, and advance the interest of the pupils as much as practicable in the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

SILAS KETCHUM, *Superintendent.*